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## PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE

**PIN: 16 - 03**

**TITLE: MHLA Substance Abuse Treatment Services**

**DATE: May 12, 2016**

This PIN provides guidance regarding the addition of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services which will be available to MHLA Participants July 1, 2016.

### **Background**

On December 11, 2015, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the inclusion of SUD treatment services to the MHLA program. The Department of Public Health's (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division (SAPC) and its contracted service providers will be responsible for providing SUD care needed for any MHLA Participant either self-referred or referred by their MHLA Medical Home, based on an SUD assessment and clinical standards.

The expansion of SUD services to MHLA Participants is consistent with the existing definition of Medical Home in the MHLA Agreement, which states that the Medical Home facilitates outreach to and communication with substance abuse providers, as appropriate. The intent of that language is to connect MHLA Participants with necessary care, and MHLA Community Partners will refer MHLA Participants to SAPC's network of SUD treatment providers, at no additional cost to the Community Partner (CP). Therefore, the MHLA Agreement with clinics does not need to be amended to implement this change.

### **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services Available on July 1, 2016**

Below is the list of SUD services that MHLA Participants will be able to obtain free of charge as of July 1, 2016. Other SUD services, such as Opioid (Narcotic) Treatment services (specifically, methadone maintenance for opioid addiction), will be offered at a later date. Clinics will be notified when these services are added to the MHLA/SUD benefits package.

<b>LEVEL OF CARE</b> (The services listed below are for clinically appropriate treatment for all SUDs irrespective of the particular substance being used).	<b>ADULT SUD BENEFIT JULY 1, 2016</b>	<b>ADOLESCENT SUD BENEFIT JULY 1, 2016</b>
Early Intervention (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) in Primary Care Settings*	Yes	Yes
Outpatient (maximum of 9 hours per week for adults, and 6 hours per week for adolescents)	Yes	Yes
Intensive Outpatient (9-19 hours per week for adults, and 6-19 hours per week for adolescents)	Yes	Yes
Residential	Yes	Yes
Ambulatory Withdrawal Management	Yes	Yes
Residential Withdrawal Management	Yes	No*
Additional Medication Assisted Treatment	Yes	No
Case Management for SUD Treatment and Care Coordination with other Health, Mental Health, and Social Services (i.e. outreach, referral, and linkage to maintain engagement in treatment and to connect patients to treatment across the SUD continuum of care, as well as to providers of other needed services)	Yes	Yes

\* Levels of care and SUD services that are not provided within the SAPC network of providers, but are available via other systems of care (e.g., DHS) and providers within Los Angeles County.

### **Patient Referrals to the Department of Public Health SAPC Providers for MHLA**

SUD services will be available to all MHLA Participants. There are two ways that a MHLA Participant can obtain SUD services through the DPH SAPC network of providers that are participating in MHLA:

1. MHLA Participants can self-refer to any MHLA-participating SUD site by contacting a Community Assessment Services Center (CASC) or the Los Angeles County DPH line at 888-742-7900.
2. MHLA CP's can refer a MHLA Participant to those SAPC providers that provided covered SUD services using existing/current referral channels.
  - A searchable map of SAPC SUD providers that offer MHLA-covered SUD services can be found here:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=z3HV3jfDBuSY.ksfxJjRe66JA>
  - All clinics who refer a MHLA Participant will be required to complete a Universal Release Form (attached) with the participant's signature, which is essential should the MHLA CP provider request SUD information from a SAPC service provider. The signed and dated Universal Release Form must be placed in the participant's medical record.
  - MHLA CPs should complete a SUD screening tool prior to referral to a SAPC provider. The attached Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) tool is an example of what many clinics use to assess patients for referrals to SAPC providers.

SAPC will be modifying their Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS) forms to include information about a patient's MHLA enrollment status and Patient Identification (PID) number. If a MHLA Participant self-identifies as MHLA but does not have their ID card, SAPC and its contracted providers have been instructed to call MHLA member services so that the MHLA ID number can be inputted into LACPRS.

### **DPH Communication with SAPC Providers**

SAPC is in the process of developing a provider bulletin for SUD service providers with instructions about which SAPC contracted providers may deliver services to MHLA Participants, how to identify MHLA Participants at time of admission or treatment, the process for billing DPH/SAPC for SUD services rendered to MHLA Participants, and patient reporting procedures. This will include a statement that MHLA Participants are not to be charged for any covered SUD service. Program updates will be communicated via revised bulletins. Providers are encouraged to visit the following link to receive the most recent information: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/bulletins/bulletin.htm>

### **MHLA Participant Communications**

The MHLA handbook, ID card and website have been updated to reflect the addition of SUD services to the MHLA program. This information will also be included in the next MHLA Participant newsletter, currently scheduled for July 2016. In addition, a new English/Spanish fact sheet is available to explain the new SUD services to participants which can be provided to participants in your clinic. This fact sheet is attached to this PIN, and can also be found on the MHLA website.

### **SAPC Providers and SUD Contact Information**

A link to SAPC clinics participating in the expansion of the SUD benefit is on the MHLA website and attached to this PIN. A searchable map SAPC directory of providers participating in MHLA can also be found at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gcUA27yZx2ECq7MwsfxJjRe66JA&usp=sharing>.

The phone number for SAPC's beneficiary access line is **(888) 742-7900**, which can also be found at the SAPC website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/>. This phone number will connect callers to the Los Angeles County's DPH hotline who will then transfer the caller to the CASC closest to where the caller lives. The line is staffed on weekdays from 8 AM to 6 PM with a message service after hours, and on weekends and holidays. The line will be answered by live personnel at all times during operating hours. Calls received after hours or on weekends and holidays will be returned on the first following business day according to instructions left by the caller.

#### **MHLA Payments**

MHLA payments to CPs will not change. SUD services for MHLA Participants will be provided by SAPC's existing network of SUD providers, and all SUD services will be reimbursed directly by SAPC to those SUD providers. While some CP clinics are also SAPC providers, any SUD service provided by a SAPC provider should continue to be billed to, and reimbursed by, SAPC in accordance with SAPC procedures. MHLA does not audit SAPC providers, and CP audits by the MHLA program will not change as a result of the addition of SUD services to MHLA.

#### **Conference Call**

An optional webinar to discuss this PIN will be held on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-10am. Join the call by calling **(888) 219-1458**. There is no password required.

If you have any questions about this transition, please contact your Program Advocate.



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Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

#### **Attachments**

Enc. Universal Release Form  
MAP of SAPC SUD Providers - GPS Directory  
Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Tool